

Tennessee Environmental News

from the
Tennessee Environmental Council
Summer 2007

ISSUES AND OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS:

TEC/TCV Mixer at Blackstone Brewery

Come and network with fellow conservationists at a mixer hosted by the Tennessee Environmental Council and Tennessee Conservation Voters. Be part of a special TEC/TCV announcement and hear about TEC's new core programs. Join us August 29th for a drink and light hors d' oeuvres from 6:00 to 9:00 pm at [Blackstone's Brewing Co.](#) Please R.S.V.P. to Claudia Schenck Claudia@tectn.org or 615-248-6500.

Busting the Myth that Green Costs More Green

Did you know that buildings are the largest consumer of natural resources in our country? Did you know that buildings are responsible for more than half of all carbon emissions in the United States? Did you know that green building techniques - or getting a LEED certification for your construction project - are more affordable than you may have thought? James D. Qualk, Director of LEED facilitation sales at SSRcx, and TEC board member recently wrote an article dispelling some of the misconceptions about green building. [Click here to read the entire article.](#)

Broad New Support for Tennessee Environmental Legislation

By Mary Buckner, TEC Representative to the Tennessee Conservation Voters

Tennessee Environment Council has collaborated more than ever this year with Tennessee Conservation Voters for better environmental law in our State. Along with TEC, the Kilowatt Hours Group and Southern Environmental Law Center also stepped forward with new help. That powerful combination, plus long-standing support from TSRA, Sierra Club and other traditional TCV groups, led to important successes on Tennessee's Capital Hill.

"The extra involvement from groups and individuals has been tremendous," says professional TCV lobbyist Stewart Clifton. "We've had some of the most lively bill review sessions I can remember." [Click here for full article.](#)

TDEC Cracks Down on Water Pollution from Construction Sites

By Kyle Duvall, Organizational Advancement Director for TEC

On June 6, 2007, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation - Division of Water Pollution Control - issued a "Commissioner's Order and Assessment"

to Tennessee Contractors, Inc. and Cornerstone Landscape Management, Inc. for violating the "Water Quality Control Act," pursuant to TCA 69-3-101 of the Act.

TDEC assessed a civil penalty and a natural resources damages penalty in the amount of \$66,500.00 for water pollution violations to an unnamed tributary ("waters of the state") to Grassy Branch in Spring Hill. The tributary to Grassy Branch is located in the Rutherford Creek and Duck River Watersheds.

TDEC is to be commended for the "Crack Down," on developers who pollute our streams and rivers in the state of Tennessee when they refuse to install and/or maintain proper erosion control on construction sites during the development and construction phases. [Click here to read entire article.](#)

Bottled Water Rebellion

Bottled water has been making headlines. This ubiquitous beverage is coming under scrutiny more and more as people become aware of the impact bottled water has on our environment. Several organizations have recently released facts and education campaigns to discourage the consumption of bottled water. [Their effect has been felt around the world](#) and the City of San Francisco has even taken it one step further. Effective this July, [all city departments in San Francisco are banned from purchasing bottled water](#). What can you do about bottled water? Find out below in the Take Action section of our newsletter.

TEC Staff Member Named to Statewide Board of Directors

Heather Langford, TEC's Science Director was recently named to the board of the Tennessee Urban Forestry Council (TUFC). TUFC is a non-profit organization dedicated to the understanding, public awareness and improvement of our urban forests. We are very proud that Heather will be working with such a vital and important organization in the coming years.

Job Posting for TEC

The Tennessee Environmental Council is looking for an Administrative Assistant to work 20-25 hours per week. Applicants should be detail oriented, have experience with donor software, maintain contact lists, assist with volunteer coordination and coordinate mailings. For a complete job description, please [click here](#).

EVENTS:

Municipal Urban Forestry Workshops Throughout the Month of August

The University of Tennessee's Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) is offering a series of urban forestry workshops around the state during the month of August. [Click here](#) for a complete schedule and more information.

Nashville Green Drinks is a local chapter of worldwide phenomenon. Each month in more than 180 cities, people who work and think in the field of sustainability get together and share a beer, ideas and a vision for a green future. Meetings are every 1st Wednesday of the month @ 7 p.m. at the Blackstone Brewery on West End Ave. For more information go to www.Nashvillegreendrinks.com

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Building Great Communities - September 5-7 - Hilton East, Memphis

The 2007 Tennessee Annual Conference of Planning, Landscape Architecture, Development, Urban Forestry, and Green Building, *Building Great Communities*, will be held September 5-7 in Memphis. [Click here](#) for more information.

TAKE ACTION:

The Facts about Bottled Water - What Can You Do?

"The Problem with Plastic Bottles," from ReusableBags.com

- Americans will buy an estimated 25 billion single-serving, plastic water bottles this year. Eight out of 10 (22 billion) will end up in a landfill. -- Container Recycling Institute
- Bottled water is a rip off - consumers spend an estimate \$7 billion on bottled water in US each year.
- Worldwide 2.7 million tons of plastic are used to bottle water each year. -- OneWorld
- 1.5 million barrels of oil is used annually to produce plastic water bottles for America alone - enough to fuel some 100,000 U.S. cars for a year. -- Earth Policy Institute
- The bottled water you purchase is often in #1 PET or PETE bottles (polyethylene terephthalate), which may leach DEHA, a known carcinogen, if used more than once. -- Mothering.com
- A growing problem - "in 1990, Americans bought 1.1 billion pounds of plastic in the form of bottles, according to the Container Recycling Institute. In 2002, they bought more than three times that - 4 billion pounds." -- Christian Science Monitor
- Increasing evidence of adverse health effects tied to Bisphenol A, or BPA a widely used chemical in the manufacturing of plastic polycarbonate bottles, including baby bottles, water bottles and food / beverage containers.
- Like all plastic, these bottles will be with us forever since plastic does not biodegrade; rather, it breaks down into smaller and smaller toxic bits that contaminate our soil and waterways.
- Along with plastic bags, plastic bottles are one of the most prevalent sources of pollution found on our beaches.
- Many studies show that the quality of bottled water may be no better than tap water. What are the alternatives? Want to know more? [Click here](#).

Join TEC Today

Call 615-248-6500 to get your membership packet or check us out on the web at <http://www.tectn.org>.

Tennessee Environmental News is a service of the Tennessee Environmental Council. Please pass this message along to interested friends and colleagues.

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To unsubscribe, send a message to tec@tectn.org with the words "unsubscribe TEN" in the body of the email message.

The Tennessee Environmental Council is a 501 (c) (3) conservation organization whose mission is to educate and advocate for the protection of Tennessee's environment and public health.

TEC is a proud member of [Community Shares](#)

